

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1870

S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 4704

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, AR

SUBJECT: CALL ON SENATOR LUDER

1. POLITICAL COUNSELOR CALLED ON SENATOR LUDER, NEW PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT OF SENATE, JULY 14 AT LATTER'S REQUEST. LUDER SAID HE HAD ASKED COUNSELOR TO COME BY SO HE COULD APOLOGIZE FOR LAST MINUTE INABILITY TO ATTEND EMBASSY'S FOURTH OF JULY RECEPTION. HE MUCH APPRECIATED MANY ATTENTIONS EMBASSY HAD SHOWN HIM AND DID NOT WISH TO APPEAR UNGRATEFUL OR UNGENTLEMANLY. FURTHER, HE REGARDED HIMSELF AS A CLOSE FRIEND OF THE US AND DID NOT WISH US TO MISUNDERSTAND HIS UNAVOIDABLE NONATTENDANCE. HE SENT CORDIAL GREETINGS, ALONG WITH APOLOGIES, TO AMB HILL.

2. LUDER SAID OUTCOME OF POLITICAL CRISIS NOT YET CLEAR. "WE HAVE NOT YET REACHED 'SALIDA'," HE SAID, "BUT WE WILL SOON. THEN WE SHALL SEE HOW THINGS TAKE SHAPE." HE INDICATED HE EXPECTED NOTHING MORE THAN TO REMAIN AS PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT OF SENATE, BUT THAT IF "OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES" SHOULD FALL TO HIM, HE WOULD DISCHARGE THEM HONESTLY AND TO BEST OF HIS ABILITY.

3. HE WAS MOST CORRECT DURING CONVERSATION. HE DID NOT SPEAK ILL OF MRS. PERON OR OF HER EX-SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTER, EXCEPT TO SAY HE WAS SURPRISED THAT RODRIGO HAD BEEN LEFT IN CABINET, WHICH HE CONSIDERED

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POLITICAL MISTAKE, AND TO IMPLY THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT

THIS CABINET WILL LAST LONG. HE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT HE CONSIDERED MANY ASPECTS OF RODRIGO'S ECONOMIC PLAN TO HAVE BEEN POSITIVE. CERTAINLY, HE SAID, AUSTERITY WAS CALLED FOR.

4. HE THEN STRESSED NEED FOR CLOSE US-ARGENTINE RELATIONS. THOSE WHO THOUGHT ARGENTINA SHOULD DIVORCE ITSELF FROM US WERE TOTALLY MISTAKEN, HE SAID. ARGENTINA NEEDED US AND FELT MORE COMFORTABLE WITH IT THAN WITH ANY OTHER GREAT POWER. LAYING STRESS ON THE SENTENCE, HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT "ARGENTINA COULD HAVE IN FUTURE SAME KIND OF CLOSE, CORDIAL RELATIONS IT HAS ENJOYED WITH US FOR PAST YEAR OR MORE."

5. COMMENT: OBVIOUSLY PURPOSE OF INVITATION WAS NOT TO APOLOGIZE FOR MISSING 4TH OF JULY. AS WE READ IT, LUDER WAS SIGNALLING TO US THAT IF HE BECOMES PRESIDENT HE WISHES TO HAVE BEST POSSIBLE RELATIONS WITH US.
HILL

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